

Committee on Resources,

Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation, & Public Lands

[parks](#) - - Rep. Joel Hefley, Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-6207 - - (202) 226-7736

Witness Statement

Dolores Hauber
Mayor
Town of Groton, Connecticut
Tuesday, July 17, 2001

RE: HR 1518, Regarding Funding the Restoration of the Avery Point Lighthouse

Good morning.

Chairman Hefley and members of the subcommittee:

Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Dee Hauber and I currently serve as Mayor for the Town of Groton. I have served on the Town Council since 1989 and this is my third term as Mayor.

Let me begin by taking a few moments to describe my Town. Groton is a beautiful, historic shoreline town situated between the Mystic River and the Thames River on Long Island Sound in Southeastern Connecticut. This provides 40 miles of coastline for our 40,000 residents. We are midway between New York and Boston.

Groton is a major economic and employment center. Our economic growth reflects a change from being the most defense dependent Town in the entire country, to diversifying our local economy with growth in the tourism and pharmaceutical sectors. We are home to Pfizer, Electric Boat and the US Subase which combine to employ 22,000. The Subase has been here since the 1890's and Electric Boat has been building submarines since the early 1900's.

Our history is steeped in maritime tradition. Groton is the site of the only Revolutionary War battle site in Connecticut, Fort Griswold, which was attacked by British forces led by Benedict Arnold after they burned the City of New London.

Groton is known as the Submarine Capital of the World for its association with the design and manufacturing of modern submarines. The Groton/New London Subase is homeport to the fast attack submarine fleet in the Atlantic. We are also home to the historic ship, USS Nautilus, the first nuclear powered submarine, the Submarine Force Museum and Library that was recently expanded to include a major Cold War exhibit, and the Submarine Wall of Honor. As you can tell, we are most proud of our history.

Just south of the Subase and Electric Boat is the University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus at which this lighthouse is located. The State of Connecticut, as part of the UCONN 2000 program, has pledged millions of dollars to make this campus a world class institution for marine sciences. A new marine sciences laboratory will open for students this fall. Project Oceanology, a cooperative of several local school

districts, opened its new building this past spring.

Sharing the UCONN Campus are two United States Coast Guard Commands: the Research and Development Center and the International Ice Patrol. The Coast Guard has been a tenant on the Campus since WWII. It was during the war that this lighthouse was constructed. Mr. Streeter will follow with more details on that history, so I will not at this time.

The Avery Point Lighthouse is important to our maritime history and is truly significant as a symbol of our community. Restoration of the lighthouse has been a major community effort. Here is a copy of approximately 10,000 signatures gathered in support of the lighthouse restoration. There is no local opposition to the project.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of this proposal to fund the restoration of this historic treasure. Thank you.

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